

REMARKS

Claims 1-6 and 10 pending. By this Amendment, claims 7 and 8 are canceled and claims 1, 2 and 10 are amended.

The Office Action rejects claims 1, 6-8 and 10 under 35 U.S.C. § 103 over Ford Taurus and Mercury Sable Haynes Repair Manual in view of Takayama (USP 6,119,060) and further in view of Maue (USP 5,785,532), and rejects claims 2-5 under 35 U.S.C. § 103 over Taurus in view of Takayama and Maue, and further in view of Toshihiro (JP 64-30856). These rejections are respectfully traversed.

Independent claims 1 and 10 have been amended to recite that the meter unit and the junction box are located in a generally central region of the cabin as viewed in a vehicle width direction, the vehicle body includes a dash cross member that substantially extends in the vehicle width direction, the ABS actuator is located on a generally central portion of the dash cross member as viewed in the vehicle width direction, each of the engine control computer, the relay block, the junction box, the meter unit and the ABS actuator are connected via one of a plurality of harnesses, some of the harnesses pass through holes formed in a generally central portion of the partition wall, and the engine control computer, the relay block, the junction box, and the meter unit are located at a substantially same height in a vehicle height direction.

The applied references do not disclose or suggest at least that each of the engine control computer, the relay block, the junction box, the meter unit and the ABS actuator are connected via one of a plurality of harnesses, some of the harnesses passing through holes formed in a generally central portion of the partition wall, and the engine control computer, the relay block, the junction box, and the meter unit are located at a substantially same height in a vehicle height direction. Accordingly, the applied references do not render obvious claims 1 or 10, or any claims dependent therefrom. Accordingly, withdrawal of the rejections is requested.

For at least the above reasons, it is submitted that the application is in condition for allowance. Prompt consideration and allowance are solicited.

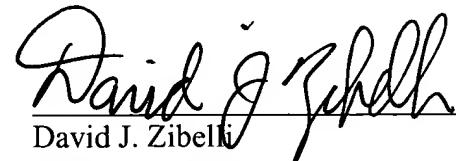
The Office is authorized to charge any fees due under 37 C.F.R. §1.16 or 1.17 to Deposit Account No. 11-0600.

Should there be any questions, the Examiner is invited to contact Applicants' undersigned attorney.

Respectfully submitted,

Dated:

5/7/04


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